

ABSTRACT

A telecommunication method for providing packets to at least one of a first and a second network are described. A telephone set connects the first network to the second network. ~~In one embodiment, the telephone set includes two MAC devices. Each MAC~~

~~device is in electrical communication with one of the two networks via a communication~~

5 ~~path. In another embodiment, a packet switching device provides the separate~~

~~communication paths to the two networks.~~ The telephone set forwards packets received

from one network to the other network, generates packets from signals locally inputted into the telephone set and forwards such generated packets to at least one of the networks, and performs actions prescribed by packets received by and addressed to the telephone

10 set. Packets addressed to the telephone set may or may not be forwarded. On-time delivery of voice data packets is ensured by limiting the time that such packets can await transmission onto the network. When the time for forwarding a voice data packet exceeds a permitted time limit, that packet can be replaced by a new packet. The new packet can include the same or different data as the replaced packet.

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